

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IGA-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PC-01 /049 W

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R 290910Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7194

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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FOR AID/W; ALSO PASS AF/W

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: INFORMAL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

1.DURING AMB'S INITIAL CALL ON NEW MIN OF POPULAR CULTURE,
SPORTS AND YOUTH KOUAMI, LATTER INQUIRED WHAT
USG COULD OFFER
IN WAY OF ASSISTANCE TO A LITERACY CAMPAIGN TO BE UNDERTAKEN
CHIEFLY IN RURAL AREAS PRESUMABLY OUTSIDE THE NORMAL SCHOOL
SYSTEM. HIS PREDECESSOR HAD ALSO RAISED THIS TOPIC WITH US
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

2. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMAL EDUCATION AND LITERACY REPRESENT
PRIORITY AREAS FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE IN THE
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY UNDER THE LATEST FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE ACT. SINCE DAHOMEANS APPEAR TO BE AT THE INITIAL
STAGE OF FORMULATING THEIR LITERACY CAMPAIGN, THE TERRAIN MIGHT
BE SUITABLE FOR US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. BEFORE HAVING ANY TALKS WITH DAHOMEAN OFFICIALS ON THIS
SUBJECT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THERE ARE
INDEED FORMS OF ASSISTANCE THAT WE MIGHT, IF CONDITIONS
ARE FAVORABLE, EVENTUALLY OFFER. THERE IS NO POINT IN TALK-
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ING TO DAHOMEANS ABOUT THEIR LITERACY CAMPAIGN IF THERE IS

LITTLE OR NO POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTING THEM.

4. IN VIEW CURRENT POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN DAHOMEY, WE
INTEND PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY. COOPERATION WITH DAHOMEY IN THIS
FIELD IS WORTH EXPLORING BECAUSE WE BELIEVE COUNTRY IS IN
MOOD FOR SUCH A CAMPAIGN, OUR ASSISTANCE COULD DO A LOT OF
GOOD FOR A MODEST OUTLAY, AND WE COULD GET SOME CREDIT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE INFO THIS SUBJECT THAT WILL
ENABLE US TO HAVE INITIAL TALK WITH DAHOMEANS. WOULD LIKE THIS
INFO TO INCLUDE ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITY SHORT-TERM TDY
ASSISTANCE IN CASE OPPORTUNITY TO PROPOSE IT SHOULD
ARISE.
ENGLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AFDROUGHT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COTONO00704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750187-1145
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975056/aaaaafjf.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMAL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
TAGS: EAID, DM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006